

# Michael Lyons discusses making his first steel sculpture with the help of Roy Kitchin

HENRY MOORE  
INSTITUTE

## *Artists' Lives* extract

**Michael Lyons:** Roy had just started a work in steel, and though I knew about working in steel, I knew about Gonzalez and Picasso I'd never actually seen anybody do it. And Roy went on a course I remember him walking up, we were walking back from the pub one night, and he said, I've just been on a course at BOC [British Oxygen Company]. And then he set up the welding shop.

And I'd done this like it was like a, it was like a disc with some structure in front of it and he said you could make that in steel. So indeed we went in this new welding shop and translated it into steel but it could quite easily been translated bigger into ... it could have been done in plaster this carving plaster in the way that I'd intended it.

So I, in fact I gave it to the Museum of Steel Sculpture which Roy set up because we made it almost made it together, wasn't like, really smart welding on it, it was, you know just trying to - the emphasis was on the art and getting the getting the art done. So that was the first piece of steel sculpture I ever made.

This is a transcript of part of an interview from National Life Stories' project *Artists' Lives*:

Michael Lyons, interviewed by Ann Sproat, 2011-2012 © British Library Board, reference C466/311. Extract from Section 1, Track 12. Starts: 38:32

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